

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9493

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USNATO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO CHINESE STATEMENT ON PFT

REF: (A) TOKYO 4399, (B) MOSCOW 3846

SUMMARY: SOVIETS WELCOME NEGATIVE JAPANESE REACTION TO PRC 4-POINT STATEMENT ON PFT. HOWEVER, A SOVIET SOURCE STATES THAT END OF DIET SESSION MAY GIVE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT MORE FLEXIBILITY TO MOVE AHEAD ON PFT. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 20 PRAVDA ARTICLE BY PRAVDA TOKYO CORRESPONDENT ENTITLED "UNCEREMONIOUS PRESSURE FROM PEKING" SEIZES ON CHINESE 4-POINT STATEMENT ON PFT AS CRUDE CHINESE ATTEMPT "TO PRESSURE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CIRCLES TO ENTER INTO AN ANTI-SOVIET ALLIANCE." ARTICLE CHARGES THAT AUTHORS OF PRC STATEMENT SCANDALOUSLY ASSERT THAT

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SOVIET "HEGEMONISM" HAS BECOME A THREAT "NOT ONLY TO CHINA BUT TO JAPAN." ARTICLE CARRIES REACTIONS BY JAPANESE COMMUNIST AND LDP MEMBERS AND JAPANESE PRESS CRITICAL OF PRC STATEMENT. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT JAPANESE REACTION INDICATES THAT, "ALONG WITH THE SUPPORTERS OF A QUICK RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PEKING ON THE TERMS LAID DOWN BY THE MAOISTS, THE SUPPORTERS OF A MORE

REALISTIC COURSE ARE ALSO TO BE FOUND IN JAPANESE
POLITICAL CIRCLES."

2. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY PLEASED AT COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE EFFECT PRC STATEMENT HAS HAD IN JAPAN. JAPA-
NESE REACTION WILL PROBABLY REINFORCE SOVIET EFFORTS
TO CONTINUE "WEIGHING IN" WITH SOVIET VIEWPOINT ON PFT
IN ORDER TO "ENCOURAGE" JAPANESE WHO ADVOCATE CAUTION ON
PFT. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO HEAR HINTS FROM
OUR SOVIET CONTACTS THAT MOSCOW IS LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO "HOLD OUT" ON PFT. IN THIS
CONNECTION A SOVIET ACADEMIC SPECIALIST ON JAPAN, WHO
VISITED JAPAN TWO MONTHS AGO, TOLD EMBOFF THAT CLOSURE
OF DIET SESSION COULD GIVE GOVERNMENT MORE FLEXIBILITY
IN MOVING TOWARD PFT CONCLUSION. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH
KAPITSA'S REMARKS TO THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR (REF B),
THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE BECOMING RECONCILED
TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF A PFT. TOON

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